



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 7, 2011

The Honorable Greg Walden
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Expanding Broadband in Southern Oregon

Dear Congressman Walden:

Before my time in the Oregon Legislature as the Representative for Oregon's 5th district, I spent 15 years as a commentator for regional NPR stations, so I have a high esteem for information and communication and actively seek to promote both.

In today's 21st century America, information is gathered and communication is done increasingly online which is an incredible achievement, if you have high-speed internet access. For many communities in America and Oregon, particularly rural communities like those in Southern Oregon, high speed internet can be an elusive thing. Individuals, businesses, families and entire communities that are without broadband are missing out on the benefits and opportunities it provides.

America became the world's strongest economy in the 20th Century in large part because we made significant investments in technology and communications infrastructure. The system worked because the federal government facilitated private sector investment, acting as a referee protecting the public interest while leaning toward encouraging innovation and investment. We need to demonstrate the same commitment to broadband deployment and support efforts that will get us to the President's admirable goal of bringing broadband to 98% of Americans.

One such effort is LightSquared, a company seeking to invest \$14 billion in building a nationwide, 4G network that will employ thousands of workers as it brings state-of-the-art high-speed wireless capacity to at least 92% of the country over the next several years.

We are in the information age and broadband access will be vital for individual and collective success. Please support investments and efforts such as LightSquared to increase broadband access.

Sincerely,



Representative Peter Buckley

Cc: Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission